

REMARKS

Status of the claims:

With the above amendments, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 16 have been amended, claims 17-23 are added, claims 2, 6, 8, 12, and 15 are canceled, and claims 1, 3-5, 7, 9-11, 13-14, and 16-23 are pending and ready for further action on the merits. No new matter has been added by way of the above amendments. Support for the amendment to claim 1 can be found in original claims 2 and 6. Support for the amendment to claim 11 can be found in original claims 12 and 15. Support for the amendment to claim 10 and support for new claims 17-23 can be found in the specification as filed. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph

Claims 9 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph for allegedly being indefinite.

Claim 9 is rejected for the language “wherein the structured surface comprises a projection”. The Examiner is correct in the assumption that the surface in claim 9 is covered with projections. Please see the first three lines of page 6. With the above explanation and the disclosure in the written description at page 6, lines 1-3, Applicants believe that claim 9 can no longer be considered vague or indefinite. Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

Claim 10 is rejected for insufficient antecedent basis for the phrase “first surface”. Claim 10 has been amended so that the phrase now has sufficient antecedent basis.

Applicants believe that with this amendment that the rejection has been obviated. Withdrawal of the rejection is warranted and respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-5, 8 and 10-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Slocum '126 (US Patent No. 6,280,126).

Claims 1, 6-7, 11 and 15-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Najima '493 (US Patent No. 5,143,493).

Claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rivin '304 (US Patent No. 5,322,304).

Applicants traverse.

Applicants respectfully point out that claim 1 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of original claims 2 and 6 and claim 11 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 12 and 15. Applicants respectfully point out that claim 2 has not been rejected over Najima '493 or Rivin '304 and claim 6 has not been rejected over Slocum '126. Accordingly, Applicants believe that claim 1, which has been amended by incorporating original claims 2 and 6, is allowable over all of the cited art. Using similar reasoning, claim 11 should be allowable because claim 11 has been amended by incorporating the subject matter of claims 12 and 15.

Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over Slocum '126 because Slocum '126 fails to disclose a structured surface that comprises a plurality of depressions. Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over Najima '493 because Najima '493 fails to disclose that the second surface comprises the receiving surface. Claims 1 and 11 are allowable over Rivin '304

because Rivin '304 fails to disclose a structured surface that comprises a plurality of depressions and a second surface that comprises a receiving surface.

Accordingly, Applicants believe that all rejections have been obviated. Withdrawal of the rejections is warranted and respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

With the above amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that all objections and/or rejections have been obviated. Thus, each of the claims remaining in the application is in condition for immediate allowance. A passage of the instant invention to allowance is earnestly solicited.

Applicants believe that no fee is necessary, however, should a fee be deemed to be necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees required by this action or any future action to Deposit Account No. 16-1435.

Should the Examiner have any questions relating to the instant application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (336) 607-7486 to discuss any issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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